

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00293 111507 Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

(ADP) W

----- 024563

O R 111400 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9780

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0293

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY US SU

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED NON- INVOLVEMENT IN LARAF OPERATIONS

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOLD CHARGE EVENING MARCH 9 OF REPORT HIS EMBASSY RECEIVED MARCH 8 THAT LOCKHEED JETSTAR AIRCRAFT AT UQBA AIR BASE HAD BEEN ON ALERT SINCE MORNING MARCH 8 FOR FLIGHT TO SUDAN PRESUMABLY TO PICK UP EIGHT BSO TERRORISTS, AND THAT LOCKHEED PILOT HAD BEEN CO- OPTED BY LARAF FOR FLIGHT. CO LARAF FERJANI WAS TO BE CHIEF PILOT. GERMAN' S SOURCE WAS AN AMERICAN WITH LOCKHEED HERE.
2. ON CHARGE' S INSTRUCTION, ECONOFF INTERVIEWED LOCKHEED MANAGER ROOKER MARCH 10 ABOUT STORY. ROOKER CONFIRMED THAT JETSTAR HAD BEEN ON ALERT SINCE MARCH 8, BUT FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION. HE ALSO GAVE COMPLETE ASSURANCE THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD LOCKHEED PILOT FLY ANY LARG AIRCRAFT TO ANY ARAB COUNTRY, AND THIS HAD BEEN POLICY FOR LONG TIME. FURTHER, LOCKHEED PILOTS ARE NOT SOUGHT FOR SUCH MISSIONS BY LIBYANS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED PILOTS OF THEIR OWN AND ARE CONSCIOUS OF DAMAGE TO THEIR IMAGE IF WESTERNER KNOWN TO PILOT THEIR VIP AIRCRAFT.
3. ROOKER SAID THAT JETSTAR HAD, HOWEVER, FLOWN TO
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00293 111507 Z

EVERY REPEAT EVERY ARAB CAPITAL CARRYING ONE OR OTHER
MEMBER OF RCC IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DOWNING OF LIBYAN
ARAB AIRLINES AIRCRAFT (FEB 28), WITH A LIBYAN CREW.

4. ROOKER ALSO ASKED ABOUT GENERAL STATE OF US/ LAR
RELATIONS NOTING THAT LOCKHEED WHICH IN PROCESS OF
NEGOTIATING PERSONNEL AND TRAINING CONTRACT WITH LARAF
HAD PICKED UP INDICATIONS FROM SOME LIBYAN SOURCES
INCLUDING MILITARY THAT " AMERICANS MIGHT NOT BE AROUND
MUCH LONGER." ROOKER SAID THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THIS
ATTITUDE HAS MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS CURRENT CONTRACT
NEGOTIATIONS, BUT DID REFLECT SERIOUS CONCERNS OF SOME
LIBYANS.

5. COMMENT: WE REPORT INFORMATION PARAS 1 AND 2
ABOVE PRIMARILY TO CORRECT ANY RUMORS WHICH MAY REACH
WASHINGTON FROM OTHER SOURCES. (GERMANS WERE TELLING
OTHER DPL MISSIONS TOO.)
JOSIF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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